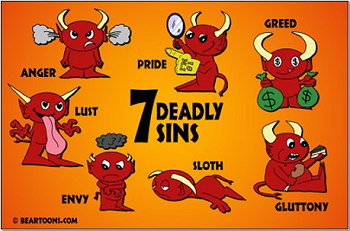
Anita Goodgrade

Cirbo/Scow

EGE

23 January 2015

Dear Mr. Peters:



"Bearman Cartoons - Bearman Cartoons - Editorial Cartoons, Pop Culture Cartoons, Caricatures, T-shirts, & Other BS." *Bearman Cartoons*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Jan. 2015.

The “green-eyed monster” is another term for the emotion of envy, which is one of Christianity’s Seven Deadly Sins. When someone is “green with envy,” it means that he or she is jealous of someone else for something that person possesses. There is more to the color green, though, than its connection with envy. The color green is very important to the economy of the U.S.; everyone knows it’s the color of money, but it’s also important for other reasons. Legacy High School should celebrate the color green on the second Tuesday of every month by encouraging staff and students to wear green and use green ink to write with because green is a color that calms nerves, signifies hope, and will help overcome gender stereotypes.

To begin with, some studies have shown that green is a calming color (Wollard). Green is the color of plants, and many people find nature relaxing. The color green has a physiological effect on people, causing the body to release calming chemicals, which makes people relax and breathe more deeply and slowly. Some of the teachers at Legacy have high blood pressure, and helping them to relax might help to lower their blood pressure, which in turn will make them more patient with students. Research has also shown people who work in offices that are painted green are better at weighing the pros and cons of a situation than people who work in offices that are painted white (Paraag). Certainly it is important for students at Legacy to weigh the pros and cons of their decisions, and being surrounded by green once a month might influence students to make better choices. According to Paraag’s research, green is also a “well-balanced color, good for speech development, contemplation, and a restful state.” Paraag also determined that green is a color that helps people feel safe and secure, and people who feel safe also feel calm. This is definitely conducive to a positive school environment and should be encouraged. The color green has more than just physiological effects. It also has been proven to have some psychological impacts on people.

Hope is a psychological sensation that is defined as a feeling and desire for a certain thing to happen. Hope is what keeps people going when times get tough, and another reason the color green should be celebrated because it symbolizes hope. The poet Pablo Neruda always wrote with green ink because he wanted his poems to give hope to people who read them. In his poem “Ode to the Color Green,” he says that green appeared from the “dry lava / and congealed rocks” (lines 6-7) and became trees and rivers. He also mentions the green color of pastures, grapes, and many other tangible items that are necessary for human existence. Humans need hope; without it, they would give up and eventually cease to exist. There are probably many people at Legacy who don’t know how important the color green is, and they might have objections to celebrating it.

While some people would not want to honor the color green because it is associated with one of the Seven Deadly Sins, that is not true in all cultures. For example, people in Japan, Italy, and Turkey associate the color yellow with wanting what someone else has (Wollard). It’s important for students at LHS to understand that there are differences in cultures, and learning about the color green would encourage students to open their minds to the way other cultures think about color. Another objection people might have is that the color green is associated with money, and some people think that Americans are too focused on money. They might believe that celebrating the color green would just feed into this obsession. However, perhaps instead of focusing on money, people would learn to focus on hope and success in all parts of their lives, not just the financial aspect. It’s a well-known fact that men are paid more than women for the same work in many occupations and professions, and perhaps helping students to associate the color green with more than money will help their generation to move past the common gender stereotypes and bring more financial equality into the world.

Learning about how colors are linked to genders is a third reason to help students admire the color green. Children in the American culture grow up with the stereotypical colors of pink for girls and blue for boys. According to Lauren Sandler, dressing girls in pink and boys in blue is worth $20 billion to the clothing industry. Parents certainly have to buy clothes for their infants regardless of the baby’s gender, but it costs more money for subsequent children if they are not the same gender as the first child. Pink clothes can’t be passed down to little brothers. This marketing, according to Lise Eliot, causes children’s sense of gender to be “heavily based on notions of color and dress.” This means that once kids are attached to a color, the next step is to choose toys based on that color, and it just goes on from there. By the age of three, “boys are 97% more likely to pick a toy like a truck” (Eliot), which means they are setting gender stereotypes that early in life. If people could overcome these common gender stereotypes, perhaps eventually there wouldn’t be such a difference in what men and women earn for the same work. Celebrating the color green would have many far-reaching effects.

Wearing green or writing with green ink would encourage the Legacy community to look at life differently. It might even change the way people think about each other and themselves. It could lead to a calmer, happier high school. Please consider celebrating the color green by setting aside a day each month for people to wear green and to write with green ink.

Sincerely,

Anita Goodgrade

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